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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY International  
SUBJECT Cancer Research

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1. The artificial cure or creation of cancer through use of war gases or derivatives has not progressed beyond the experimental stage. Results of experiments thus far have not been encouraging. Nitrogen mustard preparation has been employed in laboratories, but there has been no method of control discovered and it kills healthy cells as well as the diseased. Use of other hydrocarbons produce the same uncontrollable results. No discussion of the technique was evident at the July 1954 gerontology conference in London.
2. The most noteworthy experiments attempting to tie cancer incidence to nervous system irregularities have occurred in the US. Research involving lung cancer and cigarette smoking is quite advanced. The nervous necessity to keep one's hands occupied and the resultant palliative of smoking is an example of a system irregularity. Foreign cancer specialists are following the research with keen interest. At the July gerontology conference, lung cancer-smoking research was discussed enthusiastically in informal gatherings.
3. Use of viruses in an attempt to destroy cancer is at the same stage as use of war gases in that no method of control has been discovered. In addition, destruction of diseased or healthy cells occurs without pattern. Viruses used in experiments have been limited mostly to influenza and Japanese encephalitis. There was no discussion of such work by foreign specialists.
4. Research into antagonisms between diseases has resulted in a definite clue being established as regards cancer and tuberculosis. The evidence developed thus far indicates that the two are relatively incompatible. Simultaneous affliction is a rarity.
5. There is a definite correlation between cancer and specific environment, /see end of report for notice of availability of a paper on subject/. Cancer of the nasal pharynx is prevalent amongst Chinese males living in the humid southern provinces of the mainland. Facial bone structure is a contributing

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factor. Chinese males are also afflicted with a noticeable amount of cancer of the upper jaw, irrespective of residence. In Holland, S W Tromp, one of the foremost European cancer specialists, is seeking a connection between soil and cancer. His work is directed at soil condition in settled communities where it may have become exhausted of properties critical to health. He is also interested in antimony content of river water drinking supply in the belief that there is a certain amount required for maintaining healthy tissue.

6. In Israel, Dr I Barenblum and Dr A Hochman have been conducting work on cancer of the cervix and uterus. Cancer of cervix in Jewish females is a rarity. Barenblum and Hochman believe that this is due to circumcision of Jewish males. This is a custom trend rather than one of environment. Barenblum is working on stomach cancer as of September 1954 at Weizmann Institute in Rehoveth. Hochman is continuing research on cervix and uterus cancer at University Hospital in Jerusalem. Weizmann Institute is engaged in fundamental research and receives a governmental stipend. University Hospital is less fortunate and is suffering from lack of funds. It does clinical work. Immigration of Jews from many countries has given Israeli medical researchers a unique opportunity for research. Their statistical work is excellent and is providing a great contribution to the knowledge of cancer.
7. Dr Niels Dungal of the University of Iceland at Reykjavik has been doing research based on US lung cancer statistics. He has noticed that lung cancer incidence among Icelanders is not large. Pipe smoking is the custom. In Denmark, Dr J Clemmensen of the Danish Cancer Registry, Copenhagen, is doing statistical work on incidence of breast cancer among urban and suburban dwelling females. His work is inconclusive thus far.
8. No country of the world has a corner on cancer research work. The US is looked upon by other countries as the leader, but this is not entirely true as finances alone do not hold the key to successful work. Relatively speaking, the UK has the best organized cancer research program outside of the US as a result of well established medical facilities and a long history of medical research. The most dynamic work is that done in Israel. With more financial aid Israeli medical researchers would overtake their British counterparts.
9. [Available on loan from CIA Library is a reprint of a paper entitled Incidence of Malignant Tumors in Chinese, Especially in Formosa, which appeared in the May 1954 edition of Cancer.]

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